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MINNESOTA

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

VOLUME 4. No. 6.

ST. PAUL, JUNE, 1914.

QUARTERLY

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MARGARET J. EVANS, Northfield, *Chairman*.
 GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN, Minneapolis.
 GEORGE E. VINCENT, Minneapolis.
 C. G. SCHULZ, St. Paul.
 WARREN UPHAM, St. Paul.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, *Secretary*.
 HELEN J. STEARNS, *Librarian*.
 MARY P. PRINGLE, *Reference Librarian*.
 RUTH HAVEN, *Organizer*.
 MARTHA WILSON, *Library Visitor*.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION. LIBRARY DEPARTMENT.

St. Paul, July 8-10, 1914.

Officers: President, Willis H. Kerr, State Normal School, Emporia, Kan.; Vice President, Mrs. P. P. Claxton, Washington, D. C.; Secretary, Harriet A. Wood, Library Association, Portland, Ore.

Chairmen of Committees: High Schools, Mary E. Hall, Girls' High School, Brooklyn; Normal Schools, Ida M. Mendenhall, Tomkins Cove, New York; Rural Schools, Martha Wilson, State Department of Education, St. Paul, Minn.

Program.

Wednesday Morning, July 8. Joint Meeting With National Council of Teachers of English.

1. Cultural possibilities of the school and college library.
2. The library's debt to culture. Mr. M. S. Dudgeon, Secretary, Wisconsin Library Commission, Madison.
3. The List of Books for Home Reading of High School Pupils: a symposium of experiences.

Wednesday Afternoon, July 8. Rural School Libraries.

1. The country child in the school library. Mrs. Josephine Corliss Preston, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Olympia, Wash.
2. The Library in the Rural School.
 - a. The book: Report of the committee upon standard foundation library for a rural school. Miss Harriet A. Wood, Supervisor of School Libraries, Library Association, Portland, Ore., and Mr. Walter Barnes, State Normal School, Glenville, W. Va.
 - b. The teacher: Report of the committee upon the training of the rural teacher to know and use the school library. Miss Delia G. Ovitz, Librarian, State Normal School, Milwaukee, Wis., and Miss Mabel Carney, State Normal University, Normal, Ill.
 - c. The community: Report of the committee upon community service from the rural school library. Miss Elizabeth B. Wales, Secretary, Missouri Library Commission, Jefferson City, Mo., and Mr. T. N. Carver, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.
3. Business: Appointment of committees.

Thursday, July 9. Joint Meeting With the Minnesota Library Association.

9:00 o'clock a. m., House Chamber, The Capitol.

1. The newspaper morgue, the library, and the school. Dr. W. Dawson Johnston, Librarian, Public Library, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

2. Libraries and schools: educational co-operation. Willis H. Kerr, Librarian, State Normal School, Emporia, Kan.
3. Normal school training in library methods. Miss Delia G. Ovitz, Librarian, State Normal School, Milwaukee, Wis.
4. The county library and the rural problem. Mrs. P. P. Claxton, Washington, D. C.

5. Visit the Minnesota State Capitol.

2:30 o'clock p. m.

Visit the Twin City Libraries.

6:30 o'clock p. m.

Dinner for visiting librarians, by courtesy of the Minnesota Library Association.

Friday Afternoon, July 10. High School Libraries.

1. A normal budget for a high school library. Miss M. A. Newberry, New York Public Library.
2. Successful books in vocational guidance.
3. High school branches of public libraries. Mr. Purd B. Wright, Librarian, Public Library, Kansas City, Mo.
4. Business: Reports of committees. Election of officers.

The program as above outlined offers many attractions, and public and school librarians from Minnesota should take advantage of this unusual opportunity to hear and meet library workers from other states. The problems of rural school libraries and county libraries are urgent in Minnesota, with its very large rural population, while the cultural possibilities of the High School library and the work of the library in vocational guidance are subjects of vital interest to all librarians, opening a new field for usefulness.

Membership.

The sessions of the N. E. A. are open only to members, and libraries are urged to join the association, so that their librarians may have the privilege of attending the meetings. The membership fee is \$2. Blanks have already been mailed to Minnesota libraries, which should be returned with fee to J. H. Mitchell, Chairman Executive Committee, Commerce Building, St. Paul, Minn.

The advantages of membership to libraries are: (1) The N. E. A. proceedings

print in full all papers and discussions presented at the meeting, and thus give a resume of current educational thought. Public libraries should join in order to secure this volume which **cannot be bought** but is distributed **free to members**. No book committee which aims to purchase the best books on practical questions would hesitate to pay \$2 for a book containing the latest word on all phases of modern education.

(2) The meetings give an opportunity to hear the leaders in present day educational movements, and the library needs the stimulus of these leaders to maintain its place in the system of public education.

School Library Exhibit.

The school library exhibit prepared by the U. S. Bureau of Education as a permanent traveling exhibit, and first shown at Washington in May during the conference of the American Library Association will be shown at St. Paul during the N. E. A. There will also be special library exhibits at the St. Paul Public Library.

Send Your Name to St. Paul.

Librarians and all interested in library work are asked to indicate their intention to attend the St. Paul meetings. No reservations can now be secured at down-town hotels. The Aberdeen Hotel, 10 minutes by trolley from the St. Paul Hotel, has been selected as library headquarters. Rates, \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day (European plan), for rooms in suites. No single rooms available. For reservations, write immediately to Miss Martha Wilson, State Department of Education, St. Paul, Minn.

SUMMER LIBRARY SCHOOL 1914.

The arrangements for the Summer School for Library Training have been completed, and twenty-three students are already registered. The school opens June 15th, in Room 218 of the library building of the State University.

The course is under the direction of the Secretary of the Library Commission, who also gives the lectures on book selection and buying and on library administration. The technical course in classification and cataloging will be given by Miss Miriam E. Carey, Supervisor of Institution Libraries under the Board of Control, beginning the second week and continuing throughout the course. The preliminary lessons in order, accession and allied subjects will be given

the first week by Miss Ruth Haven, the Library Commission organizer. Miss Martha Wilson, State Supervisor of School Libraries, will give the lectures on children's work, following the general course in book selection during the second and third weeks, emphasizing the selection of children's books and work with schools and school libraries.

The reference work will be given during the last two weeks by Miss Helen J. Stearns, Librarian of the Commission. This will cover a study of the standard dictionaries, cyclopedias and general reference books with problems illustrating their use.

The N. E. A. program printed in this bulletin is one of interest to all library workers, and it is expected that many Minnesota librarians will attend these meetings. The lectures for the entire week have been arranged to cover subjects of interest to former students of the school, and supplement previous courses. Problems of library administration and library budgets will be discussed by the director on Monday and Tuesday, while the regular N. E. A. program will occupy Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. A special attraction on Friday morning will be the lecture by Miss Margaret J. Evans, Chairman of the Commission, on Poetry as a Revealer. Miss Evans always brings a message of inspiration and encouragement.

Other special lectures will be given as indicated in the following program. Dr. William Dawson Johnston, Librarian of the St. Paul Public Library, is a specialist in history and his talk on the literature of history will include material on current history, so important to the up-to-date library. He will also make an address before the library section of the N. E. A. on Minnesota day. Miss Maud van Buren, well known as a Minnesota librarian, and formerly instructor in the Wisconsin Library School, will visit the school June 29-30, speaking on Publicity and Civic work. Miss van Buren is now organizer for the American Civic Association, and has just completed a successful civic campaign in the South and East.

Miss Gratia Countryman, Librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library, will address the class, and visits to the libraries in the Twin Cities, to the Waldorf bindery and other places of interest will be important features of the course.

The list of text-books and necessary supplies is printed in the formal announce-

ment. Students are requested to bring with them any of these which they may have in their own libraries, but are advised not to purchase any supplies until arrival at the school, where everything needed will be furnished at cost.

The Delta Gamma Lodge, 1320 7th St. S. E., will again be library headquarters. Librarians who are planning to come for the N. E. A. week or to attend any special lectures are urged to write the Director at once, and if desired, accommodations will be secured in the immediate neighborhood.

Outline of Program.

1st week—June 15-19.

Order, accession, etc., Miss Haven.

Book selection, Miss Baldwin.

June 19th—The literature of history, Dr. William Dawson Johnston.

2nd week—June 22-26.

Classification, cataloging, Miss Carey.

Book selection, Miss Baldwin.

Children's work, Miss Wilson.

June 26th—Binding, Mr. Chidester of Waldorf Bindery (followed by visit to bindery).

3rd week—June 29-July 3.

Cataloging, classification, Miss Carey.

Children's work, Miss Wilson.

June 29th—Publicity, Miss van Buren.

June 30th—The library and civic work, Miss van Buren.

July 4—Holiday.

4th week—July 6-11.

Cataloging, classification, Miss Carey.

Administration, Miss Baldwin.

July 8-10—N. E. A. program.

July 10—Poetry as a revealer, Miss Evans.

5th and 6th weeks—July 13-24.

Cataloging, classification, Miss Carey.

Reference work, Miss Stearns.

July 23d, Review.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Washington Conference, 1914.

The annual conference of the A. L. A. held in Washington the last week in May attracted an attendance of over 1,000, and proved of unusual interest in many ways, in spite of the disadvantages of being scattered in various hotels, and the extreme heat.

The general sessions were held in the Memorial Continental Hall across the White House grounds from the headquarters hotel, the New Willard. As was fitting at the

national capital, the service of the national government to libraries was emphasized, and representatives of national organizations or departments of government contributed to the program. Among these may be noted Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, Director Department of Historical Research, Carnegie Institution of Washington; John Foster Carr, Director of the Immigrant Education Society, New York City; Dr. P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education; Dr. Robert W. DeForest, President of the American Federation of Arts, and Albert S. Burleson, Postmaster General, who spoke on Parcel post with reference to books.

In his opening address, President Anderson strongly advocated the abolishing of the duty on books as being a "Tax on ideas." The libraries of Washington were shown in stereopticon views by H. H. B. Meyer, of the Library of Congress, and a hand-book listing these 137 institutions and describing their characteristic features, was prepared by the Library Association of the District of Columbia. The general sessions closed with an address on Prestige by W. N. C. Carlton of the Newberry Library, Chicago, and Readings from recent fiction, by Agnes Van Valkenburgh, instructor Library School, New York Public Library.

The League of Library Commissions held three sessions, one devoted to a discussion of present tendencies in organization of library extension work, with an admirable address by Mr. Johnson Brigham, State Librarian of Iowa on "Our Responsibility to the Commonwealth," and presentation of varying state systems as carried on in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Wyoming, Indiana and Saskatchewan. This was followed by reports of committees and a business session. A joint meeting with the College and Reference section, opened with a paper by W. W. Bishop, of the Library of Congress, on "How to use the National Library in the Service of the State," which was full of information and practical suggestions. "The Reference Function of the Small Library" was set forth in a stimulating paper by Charles E. Rush, Librarian of St. Joseph, Mo., and Mr. J. I. Wyer, State Librarian of New York, spoke on State Reference Work through the Small Library and the Traveling Library Station."

Another joint session was held with the Agricultural Libraries section, whose theme was co-operation with the county agents, the

state Farmers' Institute and agricultural extension work in the interests of rural library work, all of the papers being presented by agricultural workers and suggesting many ways of practical co-operation. Present state systems of library work for rural communities were reviewed by Frances M. Hobart of Vermont for the New England and Atlantic states and by Miss Mary E. Ahern of Chicago, for the Middle West.

One of the most interesting section meetings was that of the Children's Librarians, on Wednesday morning, when the work of the Children's Bureau, was presented by its librarian, Miss Laura A. Thompson and Miss Julia Lathrop, chief of the Bureau, took part in the discussion. An excellent paper on Children's books, particularly with reference to private buying, and the sins of book dealers and publishers was read by Miss Mary Ely, Dayton, Ohio, and Mr. Franklin K. Mathews, chief scout librarian, spoke of the Book Department, Boy Scouts of America. He deplored the publication of innumerable "Boy scout" books, so-called, which are unworthy the name, and do not correctly express the Boy Scout ideals, and urged the co-operation of librarians in circulating the books published in the authorized Boy Scout library. (These books have already been listed in a previous number of Library Notes & News, and lists may be obtained on application to the Commission).

At the Public Library there was an exhibit of library labor-saving devices, collected and exhibited under the auspices of the Committee on library administration, a school library exhibit prepared by the Bureau of Education, and an exhibit of effectively printed library advertising material, selected and arranged by Mr. Charles E. Rush of St. Joseph, Mo.

Owing to the many attractions offered by the city of Washington and its environs, the local committee refrained from arranging many entertainments, a reception and ball at the New Willard on Thursday evening being the only social function of the week.

The registration from Minnesota included Misses Countryman, Davis, Rosholt, Jordan, Allen and Frost from the Minneapolis Public Library, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lien of the State Library, St. Paul; Mr. F. G. Axtell of Macalester College, Miss Frances Earhart of Duluth, and Miss Baldwin of the Library Commission.

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Minnesota Library Association will hold two meetings this year—one in connection with the meeting of the library department of the N. E. A., St. Paul, July 9th, and the regular annual meeting at Little Falls, September 15th to 17th. Librarians and trustees are urged to attend both meetings if possible, but in any case to get to one of them. The speakers on the program of the July meeting, as will be seen by the program, are of national reputation and of practical achievement in library endeavor. The Minnesota librarians will find much of interest in all the meetings of the library department, and can help to make them a success by attending and thus showing the visitors the active interest in library matters in the state. The exhibit of books and aids for school libraries will be replete with suggestions and helps for librarians of public libraries as well.

The September meeting brings the deferred pleasure of having Mrs. Thomsen in Minnesota, the opportunity for all of the librarians to meet Dr. Johnston of the St. Paul library, Mrs. Atwood of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, to hear again Miss Margaret Evans and old and new friends from the Minnesota libraries. Everyone interested will be welcome at the meetings and it is hoped that the club women and teachers will participate. The tentative program follows:

Twenty-Second Annual Meeting, Little Falls,
Sept. 15-17, 1914.

The Library and Public Recreation.

Tuesday.

3:00 p. m. Registration at Public Library.

4:00 p. m. Informal reception followed by automobile ride.

6:30 p. m. Dinner.

Address of welcome, Mrs. L. D. Brown,
Vice-President Library Board.

Address: The margin of leisure, Dr.
William Dawson Johnston, Librarian,
St. Paul.

Wednesday.

9:30 a. m. Recreational adjuncts.

Moving pictures, Dorothy Hurlbert,
Moorhead Normal.

The victrola in the library, Mabel New-
hard, Virginia.

After all—books, Miss Margaret J.
Evans, Northfield.

11:15 a. m. How to tell a story, Mrs. Gud-
run Thorne-Thomsen.

12:00. Picnic lunch at Pine Grove.

2:30 p. m. The library and the club.

Program making, Margaret Palmer,
Chisholm.

The town library and the country club.
Women's clubs and the recreation move-
ment, Mrs. Clarence L. Atwood, Pres-
ident Minn. Federation of Women's
clubs.

4 p. m. Story hour for the children of
Little Falls, High School Auditorium.
Trustees' Round Table, at Public Library.

8 p. m. Music, Mrs. C. A. Weyerhauser.

Address: Mrs. Gudrun Thorne-Thom-
sen.

Thursday.

9:00 a. m. Experiments—successful and
otherwise. (Each library will be asked
to report.)

School relationships.

Helps in meeting the demands of the
day.

Administration question-box.

Business meeting.

TWIN CITY LIBRARY CLUB.

The spring meeting of the Twin City Li-
brary Club was held in St. Paul on the even-
ing of March 24, 1914. The members of the
club had dinner together at the Y. W. C. A.
The tables were decorated with ferns and
candles, and with a large bouquet of forty
Killarney roses that was presented to Mrs.
Helen McCaine, the president of the club,
to commemorate the 40 years of her service
in the St. Paul Public Library. The flowers
were the gift of the club. Miss Countryman,
of the Minneapolis Public Library, made the
presentation with a beautiful message of
love and appreciation.

The chief address of the evening was
given by Dr. William Dawson Johnston, who
has recently succeeded Mrs. McCaine as
head of the St. Paul Public Library, and the
meeting was largely in his honor.

Dr. Johnston told in humorous vein of his
thoughts and feelings as he left the "under-
ground" environs of highly civilized New
York and came into the bright and open re-
gions of the West "to play with giants," as
he expressed it.

Dr. Johnston advocated the administration of the library on the commission plan. "If the commission form of government is good for a city then it is just as good for a library," said he. "Not only would this plan be a good thing for the librarian, but for the members of the staff. The best results can be obtained by organization. I believe in an eight hour day for every one except librarians. Librarians must work days for the love of the labor and they must work nights because they have to do so in order to prepare for the next day."

An address of welcome to Dr. Johnston and his introduction to the club was given by Charles W. Ames, president of the St. Paul Institute and for the past fifteen years a member of the city library board.

Resolutions in honor of the late Richard A. Lavell, of Minneapolis, who died Nov. 28, 1913, were presented by Miss Baldwin, secretary of the State Library Commission, and were unanimously adopted.

MRS. R. M. DUNLAP,
Secretary.

DISTRICT CLUB MEETINGS.

The district club meetings this spring have been well attended, and the programs have been of vital interest, with civic improvement and the work of country clubs occupying an important position.

At the meeting of the 1st district held in Owatonna, Miss Baldwin gave a talk on Library Extension, and spoke on What the Library Commission can do for clubs at the meeting of the newly organized 10th district in Minneapolis. At the meeting of the 9th district at Crookston, April 30th, she spoke on the work of the Library Commission, showing an exhibit of illustrated children's books. This meeting was made doubly interesting by the presence of the State Art Society exhibit in Crookston. Miss Helen Stearns represented the Commission at the 8th district meeting at Cloquet and Miss Mary Pringle at the 6th district meeting in Long Prairie. Miss Martha Wilson, of the Department of Education, and a member of the Country Life Committee of the Federation spoke at the 7th district meeting in Ortonville, May 12-13 on The Country Club Movement, and also gave a talk on Children's books with an exhibit

of illustrated books and fine editions. At the meeting of the 2nd district, held in Worthington, June 3rd, Miss Baldwin spoke on Library Extension.

At all of these meetings, the clubs were urged to make the best possible use of their own library resources, calling upon the Library Commission to supplement them, and were requested to send copies of their programs to the Commission.

NOTES FOR LIBRARIANS.

Annual Reports. Librarians are reminded that the annual reports, required by law, will soon be asked for. According to the general library law, these reports are now made "at the first regular meeting of the board following the third Saturday in July." The blanks will be sent out from the Commission office in July, and the report should cover the year ending June, 1914. As previously stated, any library which according to a special charter is required to report to the council at another time, will not be asked to prepare a separate report, but should send a copy of the latest report made to the council.

Vocational Guidance. A paper on Vocational Guidance through the Library, by Mary E. Hall, with a bibliography by John G. Moulton has been reprinted from Massachusetts Library Club Bulletin, January, 1914, by the A. L. A. Publishing Board. Miss Hall writes from successful experience as librarian of the Brooklyn Girls' High School, and the pamphlet is both inspirational and instructional, giving clever, practical hints and plans how every librarian may have a part in helping young people find the work they are best fitted for.

Practical Books to be had for the asking. The Universal Portland Cement Co., Chicago, issues a number of educational booklets on the use of concrete and cement, which will be sent to any public or High School library which will make use of them. These are not merely advertising matter, but cover in detail various subjects relative to the manufacture and use of concrete. The book on Small Farm Buildings of Concrete, contains illustrations and plans, and would be useful in any library which aims to serve its neighboring farmers. Libraries are advised to take advantage of this opportunity to obtain something for nothing.

BOOKS WANTED.

Minnesota in the Civil and Indian War, 2v.
Mrs. Minnie Clarke Budlong, Secretary, Public Library Commission, Bismarck, N. D., wishes to secure several copies of this work, and librarians who have duplicates they are willing to dispose of are asked to write to Mrs. Budlong.

World's Work, v. 1. Nov. 1900-April, 1901, bound or unbound. Cloquet Public Library, H. Louise Lowe, Librarian.

The Carnegie Public Library, Austin, Minn., Mrs. Flora C. Connor, Librarian, offers seven complete volumes and 14 incomplete volumes (lacking 20 numbers) of Popular Science Monthly to any library interested.

ST. PAUL LIBRARY AND STATE SERVICE.

At a recent meeting of the Directors of the St. Paul Public Library it was voted to extend the privileges of the library to all citizens of the state. In doing this it was provided that a fee sufficient to cover the cost of the service should be charged, that is, a fee of five cents for each book borrowed together with the cost of postage.

Books needed by citizens of St. Paul, particularly books published during the current year, will not be lent.

Books are to be borrowed whenever possible through a local library. When this is impossible a deposit equal to the value of the book borrowed will be charged.

Books may be retained for a period of one month, subject to recall in case there is a local call for the book.

Libraries desiring a copy of the St. Paul library finding lists (1495 pages) in order to facilitate borrowing books may secure same by remitting the price of postage, nine cents in the local zone, and thirteen cents in the first and second zones.

TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES.

The recent action of the St. Paul library in extending its service throughout the state will be of great assistance to small public libraries in obtaining books for special use which they cannot afford to purchase.

This service will not supersede, but supplement the reference work already being done by the Library Commission. Librarians should still address the Commission

for reference topics, requiring research work, but may send to the public library for specific books, and are requested not to apply to both institutions at the same time, as requests which cannot be filled by one institution will be referred to the other.

The Community club of Hastings has opened a rest room and a traveling library has been placed there for the use of the patrons. Hastings has been doing, with the co-operation of the Library Commission, what Mr. Dana calls "sowing libraries broadcast." Five rural progress clubs have had traveling libraries for two years, the public library has benefitted to a degree and now the rest room! Truly Hastings may be said to be a "library social center."

Applications from Farmers' Clubs for books on agriculture are still received in spite of the fact that farmers have little or no time for reading during the summer months. A circular letter has been sent to the county agricultural agents asking them to act as distributing centers for the farmers' libraries. In some instances six books may answer the purpose as well as twenty-five, while other clubs may need the entire library. The county agent is in a better position to know the needs of his community than anyone else. Letters have been received from several agents expressing their hearty support of the plan. This does not mean that no farmers' libraries will be placed in high schools or with clubs direct. In many counties where there is no agricultural agent the instructor of agriculture in the high school has asked to distribute the agricultural books to his rural community.

Already eighty women's clubs have reserved club libraries for the coming year. Interest in our national problems is manifested in an increased demand for libraries on South America and Mexico. H. J. S.

SCHOOL LIBRARY NOTES.

The Northern Minnesota Educational Association held its annual meeting in St. Cloud, March 13-14. Mrs. Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen, of Chicago, spoke in the general session Friday morning on the Use of literature in the training of children. Many teachers expressed their opinion that it was the finest talk they had ever heard at an educational meeting and the large audience of superintendents, teachers and Normal students were unanimous in their response to

Mrs. Thomsen's sanity of viewpoint, clearness of presentation, and charm. The sectional meeting at which she spoke in the afternoon was crowded to the doors, many standing through the entire meeting. The subject was Dramatization of stories and was concluded with the reading of Tolstol's "Where love is, there is God also" as dramatized by a group of Mrs. Thomsen's pupils in Chicago. For all of her hearers it was an hour on the heights.

The usual exhibit of books and aids for school libraries was held by the Department of Education. Beautifully illustrated books and fine editions for children through the high school were special features of the exhibit.

The school libraries at Wayzata, Cokato, Mountain Lake and Robbinsdale were accessioned, classified, marked and charging systems installed in March and April.

The Parents' and Teachers' Association meeting at Hinckley was attended April 17th and a talk made on Reading and the use of the school library. Miss Ethel Murray, teacher in charge of the school library, spoke on the plan to give service to the grown people of the community next year. The Parents' and Teachers' Association at Hinckley is a very successful one, and its meetings are largely attended by people from the country as well as the town.

The Minnesota School Library List of Books for High Schools has been reprinted by the A. L. A. publishing board and is sold by them. The South Dakota Free Library Commission has purchased a supply of these for distribution to the high schools of South Dakota and has also adopted for state use the Minnesota list—Two hundred books for a rural school library.

The Teachers' Training Departments in the high schools are doing much to improve the rural school libraries, through required reading of good children's books, study of the state list for rural schools and definite lessons on the care and use of school libraries. A recent questionnaire sent to these departments brought replies from 85 departments. In all of these some instruction is given, most of them own all of the books on the 200 book list and all require the reading of some children's books, the number varying from five to fifteen.

The course in elementary library methods, which was given last year at the Teachers' Training School at the University Farm,

will not be repeated until next summer. This year three lectures on the Selection and use of the school library will be given in each section of the classes in Rural school methods and the books on the 200 book list will be loaned to the library for use of the teachers.

M. W.

INSTITUTION LIBRARY NOTES.

Reading to Get Results at the State Public School, Owatonna, Minn.

BY HELEN SMAILS, LIBRARIAN.

The good being derived from any library cannot be determined by the monthly report. Many books drawn out are scarcely opened. Particularly is this so in children's libraries.

In the State Public School at Owatonna there is a very complete children's library containing two thousand four hundred and six (2,406) books. This library takes a very important place in the school curriculum. Two half hour periods in the library are given each child every week. At these times only are they supposed to exchange their books. At first this seemed a hard usage of the books and a too frequent exchange; for on inquiry it was often found that the child had no idea of the contents of the returned books. To encourage the reading of the books and also to satisfy my own curiosity—a large booklet with decorated covers was made, bearing this title "Books we have read." This book contained the names of all the children above the primary grades. They were told that stars of different colors would be put after their names to show the kind of books they had read. On the beginning page of the booklet there is a classification of the books showing the color of stars to be given for the different classes of books read, for instance, fairy tales award green stars, fiction, red; animal stories, purple; history and biography, blue, and so on.

The first difficulty to be met was the untruthfulness of some children. This resulted in the story telling section of every class. Before any star is granted the book review is given orally. This was almost impossible for some at first, but scarcely ever do I now hear any one say "I've read the book but I can't tell the story." At times the whole class gather together at our long magazine table and listen to the review; at the end anyone is expected to give the critique.

The benefits derived from this practice are too numerous to give in detail here. Firstly, there is no better advertisement of a good book among the children, than the telling of its story. There are always a great many demands for the book after its story is told.

Secondly, the reader reads with the idea in mind of retaining the story.

Thirdly, it encourages the finishing of books started, which is a splendid habit.

Fourthly, the art of expression is greatly needed by most children and many principles of grammar are learned through the correction of their mistakes.

Lastly, it has opened to the children new fields of reading something besides fiction. The older ones have become interested in history, in biographies and in travel. Poetry has played a surprisingly enjoyable part in the children's reading.

The interest so spread that the primary children now come to class with the words "I've finished my book and I can tell you what is in it." So many of them are being granted stars for reading through their primers.

Anything that makes the lives of children more happy, more content or gives them food for thought is well worth while. It is just this way that libraries enter into the lives of our children. What better can the state do?

HERMAN, THE MODEL MINNESOTA TOWN.

Herman in Grant county, a town of about six hundred inhabitants, has been selected by the Minnesota League of Municipalities as the model town in the state. Names of various towns were submitted to the League, but Herman was honored with the choice. (1) Because it is a typical prairie town, (2) because it is laid out on a spacious plan with broad streets, etc., and (3) because it has an unusually large quota of what is popularly known in the West as "boosters." Members of the League of Municipalities were chosen to make a two days' survey and give concrete suggestions at a mass meeting held on the evening of May 29th. A thorough survey was made of the town, the citizens lending their services in the heartiest co-operation.

Nine adjoining towns were represented in the audience which gathered to hear the suggestions of the experts. Mr. J. E. Jenks,

of St. Cloud, President of the League, was in the chair. Mr. Wyman, the well known landscape gardener of Minneapolis, spoke on the subject of parks, streets and tree planting. Miss Schain, editor of the social service department of the Minneapolis Tribune, made a plea for organized recreation, urging that if life in the small town was made more interesting fewer girls and boys would find their way to the cities. Miss Schain also advised a salaried recreation officer.

Mr. Gesell, of the State University, gave valuable suggestions for increased efficiency in the use of the city water plant. Mr. Keller, State Fire Marshal, proposed several changes which would materially lessen the danger of fire in Herman. Mr. Rotzal, expert accountant, showed the necessity of a separate system of finance for town and county expenditures also the advantage of separating items of municipal finance so as to be able to figure on a profit and loss basis.

Mr. Bass, civil engineer, from the University of Minnesota, pictured the probable Herman of the future, when suitable municipal buildings had been erected and a satisfactory drainage and sewerage system installed.

In the absence of the Secretary of the Commission, Miss Stearns devoted a few minutes to "Library possibilities" in Herman. The Community Club, an organization which has succeeded the Commercial Club, has erected a splendid brick building which contains a good sized hall with well equipped stage properties. In the basement a concrete floor has been laid and a large club room fitted up with pool and billiard tables, and all sorts of games. This will furnish a rendezvous for the young men of the town. Another room 20x30 has been furnished by the members of the Community Club for a library and reading room. Nucleus of a library fund was started in a gift of \$50 from the club, and many citizens expressed their willingness to contribute books chosen from a list submitted by the Minnesota Public Library Commission.

A conference with the women's club resulted in its enthusiastic support of the library and it was suggested that a library committee be appointed from the Community Club to confer with the women's club on library matters. Later, the mayor will appoint a library board to administer the affairs of the library.

When a town hall is erected it was advocated that if the library had outgrown its present abode, larger library quarters might be found there. Encouraged by the example of the towns of Mapleton and Walker, Herman is looking forward to the erection of a Carnegie library in years to come. A tax levy of three mills would even now meet the requirements of a \$5,000 building. It was urged that the library be placed at once on a tax paying basis and that a levy of at least one mill be voted at the next apportionment in March, 1915.

Mr. Jenks was particularly happy in his summing up of conditions and in his encouragement for the future.

Had Hermanites been other than born optimists they might well have been dismayed at the task before them. By their appreciative applause and enthusiasm one recognized that they were people of large vision, who would work out their civic salvation along modern lines. We pledge our support to courageous Herman—Minnesota's model town.

H. J. S.

PERSONAL.

Mr. James T. Gerould, librarian of the State University, has been commissioned to purchase books for the newly established library of the University of British Columbia, and will spend the summer in Europe acquiring valuable foreign publications.

Miss Margaret Hickman, Pratt Institute Library School, 1913, for the past year librarian at Red Wing, has been elected librarian at Eveleth, and assumed her duties there May 1st.

Miss Grace L. Meyer has returned to Red Wing as librarian, after spending the winter as assistant in the St. Paul Public Library.

Miss Louise Richardson, Pratt Institute Library School, 1913, who has been assistant in the library of the University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, has been appointed children's librarian at Hibbing, where she began her work early in May.

Miss Mary Corson, formerly assistant librarian at Stillwater, has been appointed librarian to succeed Miss Clara J. Conway, who was married in April to Dr. F. A. Bordwell, of Marmarth, N. D. Miss Phelps has been made assistant librarian.

Mrs. Martha Southwell has resigned her position as librarian at Ortonville. Miss

Hester J. Clark has been elected her successor for Library Training.

Miss Helen Callaghan has been appointed assistant librarian at the Mankato Normal School and will take the summer library course.

Miss Ruth McIlvaine, formerly assistant in the Omaha Public Library has been appointed librarian of the school and public library at Nashwauk to serve until August 1st, when a library school graduate will be elected.

Miss Margaret Fletcher will be made librarian of the school and public library at St. Louis Park after completing the course at the Summer Library School. Her successor and will attend the Summer School

NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

(Items of news for this column are solicited from all libraries in the state. They should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission by the 15th of the month preceding each issue of the bulletin, which appears quarterly in March, June, September and December.)

Albert Lea. A valuable collection of stuffed birds and animals has been loaned to the library by Mr. Frank Roth. There are 160 specimens, with a few exceptions, natives of Minnesota and the Dakotas. The collection is well mounted and makes a splendid addition to the museum.

The librarian has held a story-hour on alternate Friday afternoons, which has been largely attended, and resulted in a large increase in the number of children who are regular patrons of the library.

Alexandria. The library will be closed on Sundays during June, July and August, when the patronage is very small.

Aurora. The village council has allowed the library \$20 a month, and Miss Harriet Levin, one of the High School teachers has been engaged as librarian.

Austin. The Carnegie library has just completed its 10th year in the new building. During this time the number of volumes has increased from 3,000 to 7,500, carefully selected from standard lists and there has been a total of 7,500 registrations.

Bemidji. The annual report of the Bemidji Public Library shows that 361 new borrowers have registered during the year, making a total registration of 3,477.

Benson. During the year since the new building has been open, 769 borrowers' cards have been issued, nearly as many as in all the previous years together.

Next year the lyceum course under the auspices of the library board will be secured through the Extension Department of the State University.

Bethel. The Mothers' Club of Bethel has started a library with a donation of over 100 volumes. These added to the books furnished by the traveling library will make a creditable beginning for a village of 300 people. A permanent location has been secured and a regular librarian will be in charge.

Browns Valley. The council has accepted an offer of \$5,500 for a library building from the Carnegie Corporation.

Chisholm. The new library building at Chisholm was dedicated May 15th. The building is situated on a corner of the main street, and is distinguished by a handsome corner entrance. The building is thoroughly equipped with the best library furniture, the reading and reference rooms and librarian's office and board room being on the main floor. On the lower floor is the auditorium, men's game room, women's club room and workroom.

The auditorium which seats 232 is equipped with a large stage, a large sized victrola, and a moving picture booth, which it is hoped may be equipped with a machine by fall for use during the winter months.

The men's club room is furnished with game tables, a writing desk, paper racks and a shuffle board.

The women's club room is beautifully furnished with comfortable chairs, a writing table and large library table. In the workroom is a kitchenette, and dishes and silver have been presented to the library by the Ladies' Art and Study Club, so that refreshments may be served at social gatherings. The library will open with a collection of over 3,200 volumes, of which 75 are in Finnish, 159 in Italian, 164 in Slovenian and 122 in Servian. More than half the Italian books were a gift from the Dante Alighieri Society. The collection is strong in useful arts, with the latest books on iron mining, engineering, building and construction, sewage disposal, municipal government, paving, heating, lighting, playgrounds and parks. Subscriptions have been made for 20 newspapers and magazines in foreign languages and over 50 in English.

Congressman Clarence B. Miller of Duluth, gave the chief address at the opening,

and there were short speeches by the president of the library board, Dr. A. B. Kirk, who presented the building to the village, a response by Joseph E. Austin, president of the village, Supt. J. P. Vaughan and the architect, George H. Chapman of Minneapolis.

Tyrie and Chapman of Minneapolis, the architects, presented to the library a bust of Marietta Strozzi by Desiderio de Settignano.

Victrola concerts are being given in the auditorium on Sunday afternoons, and the game room which is open to boys over 10 years of age has been filled to its capacity. The auditorium has also been used for rehearsals of a play and clubs and committees are already finding the library a convenient meeting place.

Crookston. The State Art Society exhibit was held at the Crookston Public Library in April, with a total attendance of 6,000. The Current Events Club had a tag day, May 9, to purchase a piano for the library club room.

Crosby. The Friday Study Club gave a musical entertainment, April 21, for the benefit of the public library.

Deerwood. The Civic League has undertaken a campaign to start a library in Deerwood. About 400 volumes have been received by gift, \$25 was realized from a rummage sale, \$5.75 from the 5 per cent cash sales, donated by the Oscarson Co., and \$25 from Cuyler Adams.

Duluth. Taking advantage of the parcel post rates for books, the Duluth Public Library is loaning any of its books except new fiction to anyone outside the city. People in towns as far distant as Brainerd have availed themselves of the privilege, and books have also been loaned to the libraries in the Range towns.

Eveleth. The Carnegie building, costing \$30,000 has been completed, \$2,000 worth of books have been purchased, and the opening will take place July 1st.

Fairmont. The library now closes at nine o'clock every evening except Saturday when it is open until 9:30.

The Travel Class held their annual library day, March 31. The History Class was invited and took part in the program which consisted of reviews of recent books.

Faribault. The accumulated interest of a bequest made by Mrs. Merrill about 16

years ago, added to money received from fines, the whole amounting to over \$1,000, has been devoted to purchase of books. The books include standard literature, books of reference, science, art, etc., carefully selected and in good editions, and serve to round out the collection of about 12,000 volumes, which is rapidly outgrowing its present quarters.

Fergus Falls. The story hour at the public library has been one of the most popular places of entertainment during the past winter.

Fulda. The library board has started a renting collection, at 5 cents a week, to provide recent fiction.

Glenwood. Arrangements have now been made to have the library open every afternoon in the week, and three evenings as before.

Graceville. The council has purchased a site on the main street for the library building, and plans for the \$7,000 building have already been submitted to the Carnegie Corporation for approval.

Hibbing. With the recent addition of Croatian books, the public library is now furnishing books in eight languages. A victrola has been purchased and a concert will be given every Sunday afternoon from 5 to 6. The work of the library has increased to such an extent that a specially trained worker with the children has been engaged.

Hills. The first annual report of the Hills Public Library shows that during the year 2,280 books have been donated to the library, and 16 periodicals are regularly received at the reading room. The library is in charge of the Woman's Civic League, whose members serve as librarians.

Hopkins. The Bohemian Library Association has been organized to provide books in their language for the public library. The Brotherhood of American Yeomen gave a benefit for the library, the net proceeds of which were \$20. The library will now be open every evening in the week and three afternoons.

Kasson. The library board held an exhibit of handicraft articles and antiques in the city hall, May 1st.

Litchfield. Senator Nelson has designated the Litchfield Public Library as a depository for the reports of the U. S. Geological Department. A traveling library has been placed in the Citizens Bank of Dassel.

Madison. A meeting was held at the library early in April, when an address was given by Miss Baldwin of the Library Commission, and brief talks were made by nearly everyone present on how the library might enlarge its usefulness. As a result of the discussion, a committee was appointed to devise plans for making the library a social center for the young people.

Mapleton. J. N. Wishart has presented the library with 12 volumes on Minnesota trees, flowers and fruits.

Minneota. The library board has voted to extend the privileges of the library to people in the surrounding country community.

The News and Art Club has presented a handsome Japanese print to the library.

Moorhead. The lecture room at the library has been newly decorated. Mr. Gust Eklund, who did the work, donated his services as his share of the expense of furnishing the room for use of citizens. Nearly \$100 has been raised toward the purchase of a piano.

Northfield. The Pioneer Club has presented to the library a year's subscription to the Reader's Guide.

Northome. The library board entertained the Dramatic Club and orchestra in recognition of the valuable support given the library in a recent entertainment.

Olivia. The Olivia Public Library which was started a year ago, has now become a village institution, under the direction of a library board appointed by the council.

Owatonna. The proceeds of the lecture course carried on by the Citizens' committee will be devoted to the purchase of a sanitary drinking fountain for the public library. The library has received a set of bound volumes of the Scientific American from 1849 until a recent date.

Weekly staff meetings are held for the study of reference work and an informal discussion of library matters, current events and the literature of various classes.

Pine Island. By the will of the late Frank A. Van Horn, the village of Pine Island was made the residuary legatee, the legacy to be used for a public library. Three-quarters of the residue of the estate is to be used for building a library and the remainder for books. The Pine Island village council has officially accepted the gift, which amounts to \$12,000.

Redwood Falls. A German citizen is contributing brief notes on German books in the library to the library column of the local paper.

Rochester. The public library has added a good list of agricultural books for the benefit of the farmers of Olmsted Co.

St. Charles. The council has given the library the use of the council rooms besides \$5 a month toward maintenance.

St. Cloud. The Reading Room Society has made its annual donation of \$300 to the library for the purchase of books.

St. James. An effort is being made to raise a fund by subscription for the support of the library. At the latest report this amounted to \$241. The Star Theater donated the proceeds of one evening's entertainment.

St. Louis Park. About \$200 was realized from the "Deestrick Skule" given by local talent at the High School auditorium.

St. Paul. As noted elsewhere more fully, the Library Board has authorized the Librarian to lend books to all residents of Minnesota, and undertake bibliographical research in their behalf, charging a fee sufficient to cover the cost of the service rendered.

Arrangements have been made with the Western Union Telegraph Company for the delivery of books within a radius of two miles of the library at a rate of five cents a book. Delivery in more remote sections of the city will be made through Library stations or by book post.

The first number of the "St. Paul Public Library Bulletin" has been issued. It contains a list of about eight hundred books recently added to the library.

Special lists of books have been published on Outdoor Life for Boys, Outdoor Athletics for Boys, Gardening, Wild Flowers, and Birds. A list of books on Norway and Norwegian literature in the library has been printed by the courtesy of the Haabet Society, and a list of books by Catholic authors in the Children's Department has been printed by the Catholic Bulletin, and reprinted in pamphlet form.

Sandstone. The librarian of the Commission visited the public library in May. Many new books had recently been added to the already well-chosen selection on the shelves.

Stillwater. The county commissioners granted the usual appropriation of \$400 for library extension in Washington Co. There are now 16 traveling library stations outside the city of Stillwater.

Thief River Falls. The Secretary of the Library Commission met the library board to discuss building plans. An excellent site has been purchased, and J. C. Lutz of Thief River Falls is working on the plans.

Tracy. A public meeting was held in the High School auditorium, April 1st, when the Secretary of the Library Commission spoke of the advantages of co-operation between school and public library, with a view to locating the public library in the new school building. A committee was appointed from the school board and the library association to confer upon the matter.

Two Harbors. A handicraft club for girls has been organized to meet in the basement of the library.

Virginia. The use of the library is steadily growing, and the building is constantly used as a meeting place for clubs of various sorts.

An exhibit of bird houses made by boys in the manual training department, with posters of Minnesota birds has attracted much interest. A gardening exhibit has also been an attractive feature during the spring months.

Wabasha. The story hour has been conducted by Miss Connell throughout the winter, with a total attendance at eleven meetings of 205 children.

White Bear. The contract for the Carnegie library has been let.

Winona. An addition to the stack room has been completed and was formally opened to the public, May 1st. The lighting facilities have been improved and the additional room makes it possible to shelve the books much more conveniently.